

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Communication system comprising a first node having a multiplexer for multiplexing a plurality of source signals into a multiplex signal, the first node comprises transmission means for transmitting the multiplex signal to a second node, the second node comprises a demultiplexer for demultiplexing the multiplex signal into said source signals, characterized in that the multiplexer is arranged for introducing a variable length auxiliary signal into the multiplex signal, the length of the variable length auxiliary signal being dependent on an aggregate rate of the source signals to be transmitted, wherein the multiplexer is arranged for multiplexing the source signals into packets, and for introducing the auxiliary signal into said packets, and in that the demultiplexer is arranged for extracting said packets from the multiplex signal, and for extracting said auxiliary signal from said packets.
2. (Currently Amended) Communication system according to claim 1, characterized in thatwherein the auxiliary signal comprises a predetermines symbol sequence.
3. (Currently Amended) Communication system according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in thatwherein the length of the variable length auxiliary signal can also assume the value of zero.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) Communication system according to claim 4, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the multiplexer is arranged for introducing a length field into the packet indicating the length of a source signal field in the packet, and in that the demultiplexer is arranged for extracting the source signal field using the length carried by the length field.

6. (Currently Amended) Communication system according to claim 5, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the length field can alternatively comprise a first number of symbols indicating a fixed length of the source signal field or a second number of symbols larger than the first number carrying a length value indicating the length of a variable length of the source field.

7. (Currently Amended) Communication system according to claim 6, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the first number equals to one.

8. (Currently Amended) Transmitter node having a multiplexer for multiplexing a plurality of source signals into a multiplex signal, the node comprises transmission means for transmitting the multiplex signal, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the multiplexer is arranged for introducing a variable length auxiliary signal into the multiplex signal, the length of the variable length auxiliary signal being dependent on an aggregate rate of the source signals

to be transmitted, wherein the multiplexer is arranged for multiplexing the source signals into packets, and for introducing the auxiliary signal into said packets, and for use with a demultiplexer that is arranged for extracting said packets from the multiplex signal, and for extracting said auxiliary signal from said packets.

9. (Currently Amended) Receiver node comprising a demultiplexer for demultiplexing a multiplexing signal into a plurality of source signals, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the demultiplexer is further arranged for extracting from the multiplex signal a variable length auxiliary signal, the length of the variable length auxiliary signal being dependent on an aggregate rate of the source signals in the multiplex signal, wherein the demultiplexer that is arranged for extracting said packets from the multiplex signal, and for extracting said auxiliary signal from said packets, and for use with a multiplexer that is arranged for multiplexing the source signals into packets, and for introducing the auxiliary signal into said packets.

10. (Currently Amended) Transmission method comprising multiplexing a plurality of source signals into a multiplex signal, transmitting the multiplex signal to a second node, the method further comprises demultiplexing the multiplex signal into said source signals, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the method comprises introducing a variable length auxiliary signal into the multiplex signal, the length of the variable length auxiliary signal being dependent on an aggregate rate of the source signals to be transmitted, wherein the multiplexer is arranged for

multiplexing the source signals into packets, and for introducing the auxiliary signal into said packets, and in that the demultiplexer is arranged for extracting said packets from the multiplex signal, and for extracting said auxiliary signal from said packets.

11. (Currently Amended) Multiplex signal carrying a plurality of source signals characterized in thatwherein the method comprises introducing a variable length auxiliary signal into the multiplex signal, the length of the variable length auxiliary signal being dependent on an aggregate rate of the source signals, wherein the source signals and the auxiliary signal are arranged into packets, and in that the source signals and auxiliary signal can be extracted from said packets.

12. (Currently Amended) Multiplex signal according to claim 11, characterized in thatwherein the length of the variable length auxiliary signal can also assume the value of zero.